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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755



Serial: J-458-86
16 September 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Unauthorized Disclosure of Classified Information -
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

1. (U) This memorandum is to inform you of another unauthorized disclosure of classified communications intelligence information and of my intention to report it to the Attorney General.

2. (S-CCO) The recently published book by Seymour M. Hersh, The Target is Destroyed, explores the facts and circumstances surrounding the destruction of Korean Airlines flight 007 by the Soviet Union in August 1983. The book relies heavily on what the author acknowledges to be classified information relating to the communications intelligence activities of the United States against the Soviet Union. He boldly notes in his book that the information is derived from classified reports or secret briefings with apparent disregard for the consequences of such disclosures on the U.S. intelligence gathering effort.

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4. (C) We believe it would be difficult to pursue prosecution of Hersh under 18 U.S.C. 798 since there are few new damaging revelations. However, his book weaves intelligence facts and fiction in an operational scenario which may serve to

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5. (U) I should like to emphasize the seriousness with which I view this most recent example of the media's willingness to publish sensitive details concerning U.S. communications intelligence

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Serial: J-458-86

activities, and to inform you of my request to DOJ for a prompt investigation of this and the numerous incidents of unauthorized disclosures that have been the subject of recent letters from this Agency. I am also notifying the Secretary of Defense of these most recent disclosures.



WILLIAM E. ODOM
Lieutenant General, USA
Director

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